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TO CONVEY CERTAIN LANDS IN OTOE AND MISSOURIA
RESERVATION, OKLA., TO SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

SUBMITTING

A DRAFT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO ENABLE CERTAIN
LANDS IN THE OTOE AND MISSOURIA INDIAN RESERVATIONS
IN OKLAHOMA TO BE CEDED TO THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

FEBRUARY 5, 1908.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be
printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 5, 1908.

SIR: The act of Congress approved June 21, 1906 (34 Stat. L., 325,
365), provides in part:

That any missionary society or religious organization now occupying, under proper authority, for religious or educational work among the Indians, any of the lands in the Territory of Oklahoma heretofore ceded to the United States by the Indians theretofore occupying the same and reserved to such societies or organizations for such religious uses on the schedules of allotments approved by the Secretary of the Interior, shall have the right for two years within which to make application for a patent therefor; and the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed, upon such application, to issue patents in fee to such religious societies or organizations, severally, for the lands so occupied, not to exceed one hundred and sixty acres to any one institution: *Provided*, That where such Indians, in their agreement under which the lands were ceded and allotted, reserved to themselves a reversionary interest in such lands, such religious society or organization shall pay therefor a fair valuation to be fixed by the Secretary of the Interior, not to be less than the price paid such Indians by the United States for the lands so ceded, and the proceeds therefrom shall be placed to the credit of the tribes or bands by whom such lands were ceded.

Under this act the associated executive committee of Friends on Indian Affairs applied for a patent in fee for several tracts of land occupied by the Friends in their work among the Indians of Oklahoma. Among other things, they asked for a patent for the 40 acres of land upon which their improvements in the former Otoe and Missouri Reservation are situated. However, the Otoe and Missouri Reservation was purchased with funds belonging to the tribe under the

provisions of the act of March 3, 1881 (21 Stat. L., 380), and these Indians have never ceded that part of their reservation in the occupancy of the Friends. Hence it was not possible to issue the patent desired.

I believe that some provision should be made whereby a patent may issue to the Society of Friends for the lands in question. Of course some compensation should be made and the matter adjusted to the satisfaction of the Indians, inasmuch as they have a valid reversionary interest in the lands so occupied.

The inclosed draft of a bill has been prepared to accomplish this purpose, and I recommend its enactment into law.

Respectfully,

JAMES RUDOLPH GARFIELD,
Secretary.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A BILL To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey by fee simple patent certain lands in the Otoe and Missouri Reservation, Oklahoma, to the Society of Friends.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he hereby is, authorized to convey by patent in fee simple the tract of land, not exceeding forty acres, occupied by the Society of Friends in the former Otoe and Missouri Reservation in Oklahoma for religious, school, and other purposes, to such board of trustees as the proper officers of the said society shall designate: Provided, however, That no conveyance shall be made without the consent of the Indians and the payment by said society of a just compensation for the lands to be conveyed, the price to be fixed by the Secretary of the Interior: And provided further, That the moneys derived from such source shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the Otoe and Missouri Indians, to be expended for their benefit in the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior under such regulations as he may prescribe.

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